



## *The Old Ironsides Report*

Thursday, April 29, 2004



# 'City in the sand' taking shape at FOB Duke



**Pfc. Jeremy Humphreys, a forward observer with 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment's combat observation lazing team (COLT), conducts his morning shave at Forward Operating Base Duke, Iraq.**

**By Sgt. Christopher Stanis, 1AD PAO**

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DUKE, Iraq – You stand on the camp's perimeter and look toward the horizon in any given direction. What do you see? An infinite of desert: a flat, dry and dusty wasteland.

In the middle of that wasteland, near the city of An Najaf, lies Forward Operating Base Duke, the current home to the headquarters of Fort Polk, La., based 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, an element of Task Force 1st Armored Division.

The "Dragoons" assumed control of the former Iraqi army ammunition depot from the 1st Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade, which moved north for another mission.

Though seemingly desolate, there is a purpose to the location of FOB Duke.

With 1ID elements already here, "it was a secure place to come to," said Lt. Col. Don Koonce.

Koonce commands the 203rd Combat Engineer Battalion (Heavy), a Missouri Army National Guard

unit attached to TF 1AD. Last year, the engineers tackled construction projects in Baghdad. Now, they are working in the cities of An Najaf, Al Kut and Al Diwania.

According to Koonce, FOB Duke is only a temporary staging area until forces can move to another base closer to the city.

"Elements (of the regiment) will be moving over the next few days," he said. "(So) we are building to expedited standards ... we aren't setting up permanent structures."

There will always be a military presence on the base to guard the tons of unexploded munitions that surrounds the base while demolition teams blow it up, Koonce said.

A "city in the sand" is being erected to house approximately 2,400 Soldiers. The camp comes with all of the amenities – showers, port-a-johns and a dining facility.

In only two weeks, the quality of life for Soldiers living on FOB Duke has vastly improved.

"When we first got here we had no showers or anything like that. There were long lines for the (few) port-a-johns," said Sgt. Cleveland Shuler, a telecommunications specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2ACR.

"Now," he continued, "it isn't bad. We have showers, we can wash our clothes."

While the life support area is under construction, some soldiers are still living out of their vehicles. Tents were rapidly set up, additional port-a-johns were brought in and within a week and a military kitchen trailer was set up to serve one hot meal a day.

Additionally, Shuler added, the Soldiers have access to free sodas and Gatorade.

"They're making the best out of our current situation," he said.

And if the regiment moves just after the improvements are made: "There'll be someone behind us, so it's all good" Shuler said.

## **NEWS...**

### **U.S. Warplane Fires on Fallujah Targets**

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP) - A U.S. warplane fired its cannons on targets in Fallujah for a second straight night Wednesday after a day of fighting between Marines and Sunni insurgents in parts of the encircled city.

The American operations, carried on live television with images of fiery destruction, brought new international condemnation, and joint patrols by Marines and Iraqi police that were to have started Thursday were delayed by a day.

### **Court Hears Enemy Combatant Arguments**

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court was told Wednesday that President Bush has overstepped his authority by jailing American citizens suspected of links to terrorism and denying them access to lawyers and courts.

Justices were hearing back-to-back cases about the detentions of a former Chicago gang member and the son of an oil industry worker from Saudi Arabia, in the court's most far-reaching review to date of individual rights and liberties in a time of terrorism and war.

### **Spain Indicts Fugitive on 9/11 Charges**

MADRID, Spain (AP) - A Moroccan fugitive sought in connection with the March 11 train bombings in Madrid was indicted Wednesday on charges of helping to plan the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States - the first suspect linked to both attacks.

Amer Azizi, 36, helped organize a meeting in northeast Spain in July 2001 that key plotters in the U.S. attacks, including suicide pilot Mohamed Atta, used to finalize details, Judge Baltasar Garzon said in the indictment.

### **112 Killed in South Thailand Gunbattles**

PATTANI, Thailand (AP) - Police gunned down machete-wielding militants who stormed security outposts in Thailand's Muslim-dominated south Wednesday, killing at least 112 people in one of the bloodiest days in the Southeast Asian kingdom.

The attackers were mostly teenagers - some wearing red head bands - and were intent on stealing weapons. They were poorly armed and apparently unaware that police had been tipped off in advance and were lying in wait for them.

### **House Passes Tax Cuts for Married Couples**

WASHINGTON (AP) - The House voted Wednesday to lower taxes for some married couples, part of an election-year push to lock in some of President Bush's most popular tax cuts. The bill, passed 323-95, would permanently change three parts of tax law that cause some married couples to pay higher taxes than they would as single individuals and reduce their taxes \$105 billion over the next decade. Some married couples face a tax increase next year if the changes expire as scheduled.

## **Entertainment...**

### **Elton calls US Idol vote 'racist'**

BBC- Sir Elton John has branded the public vote for TV musical talent show American Idol "incredibly racist".

The UK star's comments follow the shock exit of black vocalist Jennifer Hudson, who was one of the favorites to win.

"The three people I was really impressed with, and they just happened to be black, young female singers.

"And they all seem to be landing in the bottom three," said Sir Elton at a news conference on Tuesday. Program maker Fox Television declined to comment.

Sir Elton, who was a guest judge on the show earlier this month, said Jennifer Hudson, La Toya London and Fantasia Barrino all had "great voices".

"The fact that they're constantly in the bottom three - and I don't want to set myself up here - but I find it incredibly racist."

The show eliminates the contestant who gets the fewest votes each week.

The Jennifer Hudson result prompted the show's host Ryan Seacrest to remind viewers that the series was a talent show, not a popularity contest.

Jennifer Hudson had been one of the favorites

"America, don't forget you have to vote for the talent. You cannot let talent like this slip through the cracks," he said at the end of last week's show.

Black singer Ruben Studdard won American Idol last year.

Meanwhile, Sir Elton has announced five New York concerts backed by a symphony orchestra and a student choir from The Royal Academy of Music in London and New York's Juilliard School.

Proceeds from the opening night on 13 July at Radio City Music Hall will fund scholarships at both the Royal Academy and Juilliard.

Sir Elton attended the Royal Academy on a scholarship more than 30 years ago.

## ***Thought for the day...***

### **Easy Way**

John Killinger tells about the manager of a minor league baseball team who was so disgusted with his center fielder's performance that he ordered him to the dugout and assumed the position himself.

The first ball that came into center field took a bad hop and hit the manger in the mouth. The next one was a high fly ball, which he lost in the glare of the sun-until it bounced off his forehead. The third was a hard line drive that he charged with outstretched arms; unfortunately, it flew between his hands and smacked his eye.

Furious, he ran back to the dugout, grabbed the center fielder by the uniform, and shouted, "You idiot! You've got centerfield so messed up that even I can't do a thing with it!"

Leaders take the easy way out when they blame subordinates for problems that in reality stem from poor coaching and mentorship.

## **Today in history... APRIL 23**

### **April 29, 1945: DACHAU LIBERATED:**

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) -- On April 29, 1945, the U.S. Seventh Army's 45th Infantry Division liberates Dachau, the first concentration camp established by Germany's Nazi regime. A major Dachau sub-camp was liberated the same day by the 42nd Rainbow Division.

Established five weeks after Adolf Hitler took power as German chancellor in 1933, Dachau was situated on the outskirts of the town of Dachau, about 10 miles northwest of Munich. During its first year, the camp held about 5,000 political prisoners, consisting primarily of German communists, Social Democrats, and other political opponents of the Nazi regime. During the next few years, the number of prisoners grew dramatically, and other groups were interned at Dachau, including Jehovah's Witnesses, Gypsies, homosexuals, and repeat criminals. Beginning in 1938, Jews began to comprise a major portion of camp internees.

Prisoners at Dachau were used as forced laborers, initially in the construction and expansion of the camp and later for German armaments production. The camp served as the training center for SS concentration camp guards and was a model for other Nazi concentration camps. Dachau was also the first Nazi camp to use prisoners as human guinea pigs in medical experiments. At Dachau, Nazi scientists tested the effects of freezing and changes to atmospheric pressure on inmates, infected them with malaria and tuberculosis and treated them with experimental drugs, and forced them to test methods of making seawater potable and of halting excessive bleeding. Hundreds of prisoners died or were crippled as a result of these experiments.

Thousands of inmates died or were executed at Dachau, and thousands more were transferred to a Nazi extermination center near Linz, Austria, when they became too sick or weak to work. In 1944, to increase war production, the main camp was supplemented by dozens of satellite camps established near armaments factories in southern Germany and Austria. These camps were administered by the main camp and collectively called Dachau.

With the advance of Allied forces against Germany in April 1945, the Germans transferred prisoners from concentration camps near the front to Dachau, leading to a general deterioration of conditions and typhus epidemics. On April 27, 1945, approximately 7,000 prisoners, mostly Jews, were forced to begin a death march from Dachau to Tegernsee, far to the south. The next day, many of the SS guards abandoned the camp. On April 29, the Dachau main camp was liberated by units of the 45th Infantry after a brief battle with the camp's remaining guards.

As they neared the camp, the Americans found more than 30 railroad cars filled with bodies in various states of decomposition. Inside the camp there were more bodies and 30,000 survivors, most severely emaciated. Some of the American troops who liberated Dachau were so appalled by conditions at the camp that they machine-gunned at least two groups of captured German guards. It is officially reported that 30 SS guards were killed in this fashion, but conspiracy theorists have alleged that more than 10 times that number were executed by the American liberators. The German citizens of the town of Dachau were later forced to bury the 9,000 dead inmates found at the camp.

In the course of Dachau's history, at least 160,000 prisoners passed through the main camp, and 90,000 through the sub-camps. Incomplete records indicate that at least 32,000 of the inmates perished at Dachau and its sub-camps, but countless more were shipped to extermination camps elsewhere.



CONTACT YOUR UNIT VOTING ASSISTANCE OFFICER  
TO FIND OUT HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE  
AND RECEIVE YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT

The following are upcoming Presidential and State Primaries:

**April:** Pennsylvania

**May:** Indiana, North Carolina, Nebraska, West Virginia, Arkansas, Kentucky, Oregon, Idaho

**June:** Alabama, New Mexico, S. Dakota, Iowa, Maine, Montana, New Jersey, North Dakota, S. Carolina, Virginia, Utah

**July:** Georgia, Oklahoma

**August:** Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Tennessee, Colorado, Connecticut, Wyoming, Alaska, Florida

**September:** Guam, Arizona, Nevada, Delaware, Virgin Islands, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Hawaii, Louisiana

**November:** American Samoa, **2004 GENERAL ELECTION (NOVEMBER 2)**

**\*\*Unit VAO's can direct questions to the Division VAO, CPT Morgan, at DNV 551-0311\*\***

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myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2004				As of: Wednesday, April 28, 2004 8:33:02 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00		HEADLINE NEWS	SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - FRENCH RESISTANCE	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		00:00
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	00:30
01:00	SPORTSCENTER		STAR TREK VIII: FIRST CONTACT	TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				01:30
02:00	SPORTSCENTER				HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	MLB - SEATTLE MARINERS @ BALTIMORE ORIOLES	NHL - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 3: PHILADELPHIA FLYERS @ TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - BORN TO BE WILD	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS		CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - MARGE GETS A NEW JOB	PLAY WITH ME SESAME	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	04:00
04:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - AUTUMN GIFTS	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		04:30
05:00			DHARMA & GREG (TV14): - EDUCATING DHARMA (PT. 2)	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
05:30		BASEBALL TONIGHT	MY WIFE AND KIDS (TVPG): - THRU THICK AND THIN			05:30
06:00	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 1ST ROUND GM 5: HOUSTON ROCKETS @ LOS ANGELES LAKERS	ESPNEWS	THE WEST WING (TVPG): - ISAAC AND ISHMAEL	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR	06:00
06:30		ESPNEWS				06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	DOMINICK DUNNE'S POWER, PRIVILEGE, AND JUSTICE (TVPG): - A SCANDAL IN HUNT COUNTRY	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00		HEADLINE NEWS	JOURNEYS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH - KEEPERS OF THE LOST ARK	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		08:25
08:30	INSIDE THE NBA	HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00		SESAME STREET	MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - THE JURY (PT. 2)		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		09:13
09:30	ESPNEWS					09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	PLAY WITH ME SESAME		DISNEY'S HERCULES (TVY): - THE PRINCE OF THRANCE	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		HEY ARNOLD! (TVY): - ARNOLD AND LILA/ GRAND PRIX		10:30
11:00	AFL - FRANKFURT GALAXY @ AMSTERDAM ADMIRALS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - BORN TO BE WILD	POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TVY7): - ORIGAMI	ARMY NEWSWATCH	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				11:46
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - MARGE GETS A NEW JOB	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - AUTUMN GIFTS	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00			AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):	ESPNEWS	60 MINUTES II	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				13:17
13:30			MY WIFE AND KIDS (TVPG): - THRU THICK AND THIN	HEADLINE NEWS		13:30
13:52				PACIFIC REPORT		13:52
14:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	THE WEST WING (TVPG): - ISAAC AND ISHMAEL	FRIENDS (TVPG): - THE ONE WHERE ESTELLE DIES	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	14:00
14:25				SCRUBS (TV14): - MY LUCKY NIGHT		14:25
14:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):				14:30
14:50				REEL TIME		14:50
15:00	MLB - ATLANTA BRAVES @ SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS	TODAY	DOMINICK DUNNE'S POWER, PRIVILEGE, AND JUSTICE (TVPG): - A SCANDAL IN HUNT COUNTRY	THE BACHELOR (TV14):	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00			JOURNEYS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH - KEEPERS OF THE LOST ARK	E.R. (TVPG): - MAKEMBA		16:00
17:00		DISNEY'S HERCULES (TVY): - THE PRINCE OF THRANCE	MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - THE JURY (PT. 2)	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:22				PACIFIC REPORT		17:22
17:30		HEY ARNOLD! (TVY): - ARNOLD AND LILA/ GRAND PRIX		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	NHL - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 4: SAN JOSE SHARKS @ COLORADO AVALANCHE (JIP)	POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TVY7): - ORIGAMI		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		18:30
19:00		JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - BORN TO BE WILD			19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		19:30
20:00	SPORTSCENTER	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - MARGE GETS A NEW JOB	CROCODILE DUNDEE	FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - AUTUMN GIFTS			20:30
21:00	MLB - PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES @ ST. LOUIS CARDINALS	FRIENDS (TVPG): - THE ONE WHERE ESTELLE DIES	AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):		60 MINUTES II	21:00
21:25		SCRUBS (TV14): - MY LUCKY NIGHT				21:25
21:30			MY WIFE AND KIDS (TVPG): - THRU THICK AND THIN			21:30
21:50		REEL TIME				21:50
22:00		THE BACHELOR (TV14):	THE WEST WING (TVPG): - ISAAC AND ISHMAEL	LUCAS	FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00		E.R. (TVPG): - MAKEMBA	DOMINICK DUNNE'S POWER, PRIVILEGE, AND JUSTICE (TVPG): - A SCANDAL IN HUNT COUNTRY		HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30					INSIDE POLITICS	23:30